

A  
REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
CHARGE

AGAINST  
*MATHEW WREN,*  
Bishop of *Ely*, to the House  
of COMMONS, July 5th.  
1641.



With the Vote of the House hereupon.



Printed in the yeare 1641.

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A Report of the Committee of the  
Charge against *Mathew Wren* Bishop of  
*Ely* to the House of COMMONS.

*July 5th. 1641.*

1. **T**HAT the sayd *Mathew Wren*, Bishop  
of *Ely*, hath Excommunicated, Depri-  
ved, or Banished, within the space of  
two yeares, fifty Godly, Learned, and  
*painesfull Ministers.*

2. His Practising Superstition in his owne per-  
son.

3. His causing the *Communion Table* to be  
placed Altar-wise, and to be Railed in, and Kneel-  
ing, and Consecrating the Bread and Wine, at the  
West side of the *Communion Table*, with his back  
towards the People, and bowing to, or before the  
same.

4. Elevating the Bread, and Wine, high over  
his head, that the People might see it.

5. Causing all the Pewes, or Seates, to be so  
contrived, as that the People must of necessity  
kneele with their faces towards the East.

6. Employed his power to restraine powerfull  
Preaching, forbidding all Sermons on Sundayes  
after-noon, or in the weeke dayes, without his  
Lycence, and least expounding the *Catechisme*, and  
*Common Prayer Booke*, should be as bad as Preach-  
ing, as he and some of his Officers sayd; therefore  
he inhibits any manner of exposition, and inioynes

onely the bare question and answer in the *Common Prayer Booke*.

7. And to the end the People shall not know where there is any Sermons, Commands all Ringing of Bells to be alike, that so the People may not distinguish where there is a Sermon, or where there is but Prayers.

8. He permitted no Prayer to be sayd before Sermon, but that which is directed in the 39. Canon, which hath no warrant of Law; and after Sermon suffers no Prayer at all, but onely *Gloria Patri, &c.*

9. He did publish a Booke of Articles, to which the *Church Wardens* were to be sworne; and these thirty nine Articles containe at least 897 Questions: One whereof was this. *Doth any man discourse prophanely at meale time, touching Religion or the holy Scripture?*

Another, *Doth the Minister Expound the holy Scripture according to the sense of the Ancient Fathers?*

Which Questions it is believed, would puzzle the deepest learned *Church-warden* in *England*, to answer.

And after some time spent in the debate of the sayd Articles, it was resolved upon the question, and Voted, that it is the opinion of this House, that *Matthew Wren* Bishop of *Ely*, is unworthy, and unfit, to hold or exercise any Office or Dignity, in the *Church* or *Common-wealth*. And further Voted, that there be a Message sent to the Lords, to desire them to joyne with the *Commons*, in Petitioning his Majesty, to remove Bishop *Wren*, both from his person, and Service.

FINIS.